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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
OF LONDON.

SESSION 1859-60.

First Meeting, Monday, November 14th, 1859.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, VICE-PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Professor Otto Struve, of the Imperial Observatory of Pulkowa, St. Petersburg, as a Corresponding Member; and Sir Edward Borough, Bart.; the Rev. Charles Oakley, M.A.; Lord Henry Scott; and Henry Duckworth; George Gammie; Charles Maret, and Francis Tagart, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.*

ACCESSIONS.—The accessions to the Library and Map Rooms since the former Meeting were numerous, and the following were among the more important:—Alberdi's *Organizacion de la Confederacion Argentina*; Schrenck's *Reisen und Forschungen im Amúr-Lande*, 1854-56; *Beiträge zur Kenntniss des Russischen Reiches* (vols. 7, 9, and 19); *Reisen in Central Afrika von Mungo Park bis auf Drs. Barth und Vogel* (vol. 1); Crowther and Taylor's *Niger Expedition*, 1857-59; Hall's *Manual of South African Geography*; *Report of the Geological Survey of Canada*; Long's *Early Geography of Western Europe*; Kupffer's *Annales de l'Observatoire Physique Centrale de Russie*; and the *Transactions of Geographical and Scientific Societies* at home and abroad. Maps and Charts of the Zambesi, Shire, and Lake Shirwa, from Dr. Livingstone; 1331 *Ordnance Maps*, 76 *Admiralty Charts*; Warren's *Map of the United States*, from the Mississippi to the Pacific; Palmer's *Map of the Island of St. Helena*; Sprent's *Map of Tasmania*; *Government Maps of Sardinia, Papal States, Algeria, Belgium*; *Views and Maps of the Seat of War in Italy*; Papen's *Höhen-Schichte Karte von Central Europa*; Keith Johnston's *Royal Atlas*, and Blackie's *Imperial Atlas*, in continuation, &c.

EXHIBITIONS.—The Model of the Schooner *Fox*, and the 'Record' of the Franklin Expedition, with the case in which it was enclosed, found by Commander Hobson, on King William Island, were exhibited.

SIR R. MURCHISON, on taking the Chair, and introducing Captain M'Clintock to the audience, expressed his regret that the Earl of Ripon, the President of the Society, was prevented from being present in consequence of the death of his relative Earl de Grey, adding that, of all occasions, this was one on which the noble Earl would have most desired to be present.

The Paper read was—

Discoveries by the late Expedition in Search of Sir John Franklin and his Party. By CAPTAIN F. L. M'CLINTOCK, R.N.

THE object of the expedition, commanded by Captain M'Clintock, was to complete the search for Franklin, in the area of nearly 300 miles square, still left unexplored, and lying between the following boundaries :—On the north the tracks of Ross, Austin, and Belcher ; on the west Collinson and M'Clure ; on the south Rae and Anderson ; and on the east the west shores of Boothia.

Captain M'Clintock left Aberdeen, in the *Fox*, on July 17, 1857. His ship was beset by ice between Melville Bay and Lancaster Sound, on August 18th, and, together with the ice, he drifted back again down the middle of Davis Strait, during 242 days' imprisonment, as far as lat. $63^{\circ} 30'$, a distance of no less than 1194 geographical miles. Being, at length, released by the breaking up of the ice, under circumstances of great peril, Captain M'Clintock recommenced his voyage towards the north. He touched at the Greenland settlements, crossed Melville Bay, and reached Pond Inlet on July 27th. Here he found Esquimaux, who had heard of Rae's expedition, but had no knowledge whatever of the country west of Repulse Bay ; no rumours of Franklin's expedition had reached them. Sailing onwards, Beechey Island, the scene of Franklin's first winter, was reached on August 11th, and Bellot Strait on August 20th. This strait separates the extreme northern point of the American continent from North Somerset. It is faced by high granite rocks, and strong tides sweep through it. It was traversed on September 6th, but the expedition was compelled to take up winter quarters at its eastern entrance.

Early spring sledging journeys were commenced on February 17th of this present year, the outline of the American continent was completed, and the first rumours of Franklin's expedition were obtained from the Esquimaux. Early in April the long projected spring journeys were fairly commenced. Three parties were made up, headed respectively by Captain M'Clintock, Lieutenant Hobson, and Captain Young. Each of these gentlemen had a party of four or five men drawing a sledge, and was also accompanied by an auxiliary sledge drawn by dogs.

Captain Young explored the coast-line between the extreme